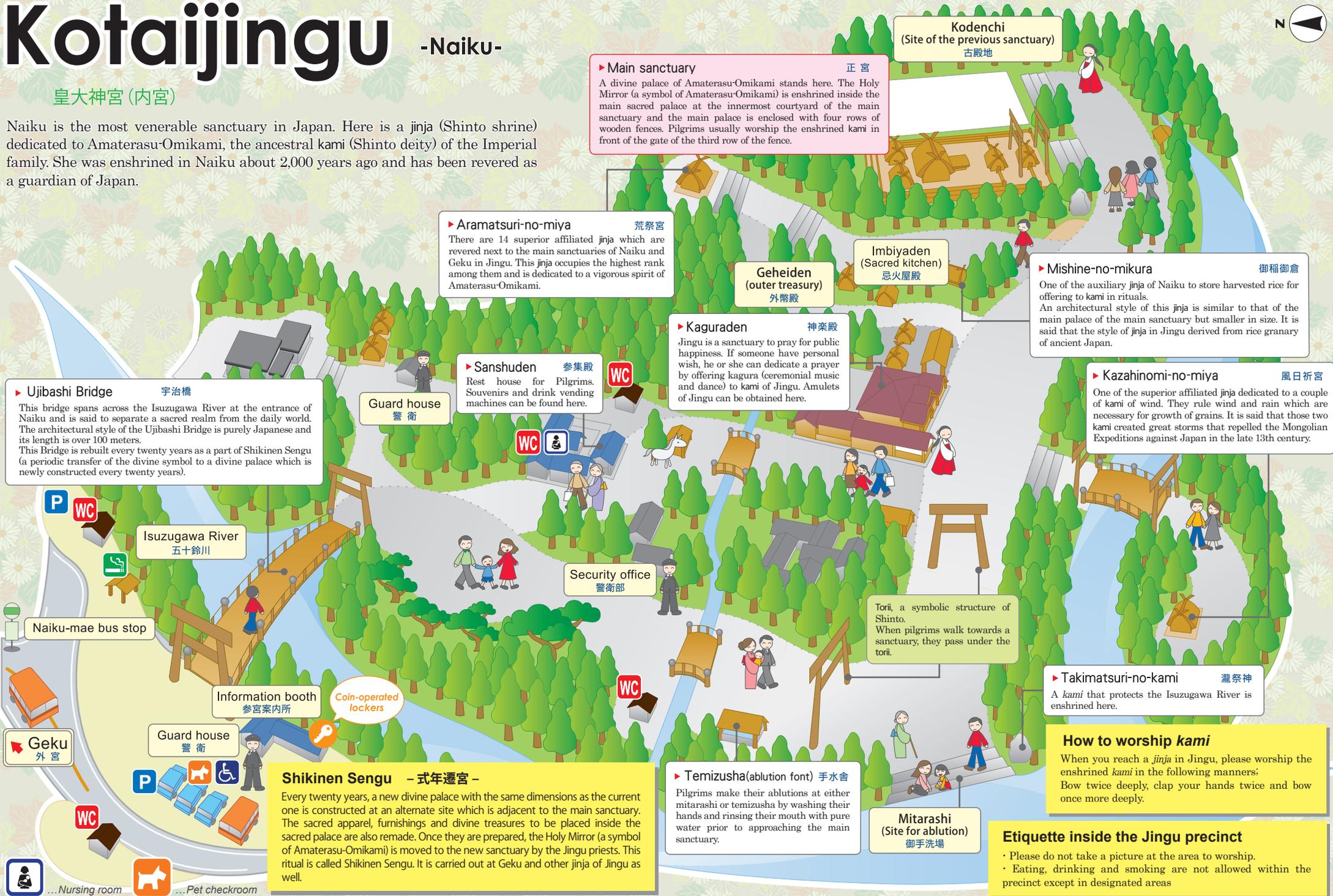


# Kotaijingu -Naiku-

皇大神宮 (内宮)

Naiku is the most venerable sanctuary in Japan. Here is a *jinja* (Shinto shrine) dedicated to Amaterasu-Omikami, the ancestral kami (Shinto deity) of the Imperial family. She was enshrined in Naiku about 2,000 years ago and has been revered as a guardian of Japan.



▶ **Main sanctuary** 正宮  
A divine palace of Amaterasu-Omikami stands here. The Holy Mirror (a symbol of Amaterasu-Omikami) is enshrined inside the main sacred palace at the innermost courtyard of the main sanctuary and the main palace is enclosed with four rows of wooden fences. Pilgrims usually worship the enshrined kami in front of the gate of the third row of the fence.

**Kodenchi**  
(Site of the previous sanctuary)  
古殿地

▶ **Aramatsuri-no-miya** 荒祭宮  
There are 14 superior affiliated *jinja* which are revered next to the main sanctuaries of Naiku and Geku in Jingu. This *jinja* occupies the highest rank among them and is dedicated to a vigorous spirit of Amaterasu-Omikami.

**Imbiyaden**  
(Sacred kitchen)  
忌火屋殿

▶ **Mishine-no-mikura** 御稲御倉  
One of the auxiliary *jinja* of Naiku to store harvested rice for offering to kami in rituals. An architectural style of this *jinja* is similar to that of the main palace of the main sanctuary but smaller in size. It is said that the style of *jinja* in Jingu derived from rice granary of ancient Japan.

▶ **Kaguraden** 神楽殿  
Jingu is a sanctuary to pray for public happiness. If someone have personal wish, he or she can dedicate a prayer by offering *kagura* (ceremonial music and dance) to kami of Jingu. Amulets of Jingu can be obtained here.

▶ **Sanshuden** 参集殿  
Rest house for Pilgrims. Souvenirs and drink vending machines can be found here.

▶ **Kazahinomi-no-miya** 風日祈宮  
One of the superior affiliated *jinja* dedicated to a couple of kami of wind. They rule wind and rain which are necessary for growth of grains. It is said that those two kami created great storms that repelled the Mongolian Expeditions against Japan in the late 13th century.

▶ **Ujibashi Bridge** 宇治橋  
This bridge spans across the Isuzugawa River at the entrance of Naiku and is said to separate a sacred realm from the daily world. The architectural style of the Ujibashi Bridge is purely Japanese and its length is over 100 meters. This Bridge is rebuilt every twenty years as a part of Shikinen Sengu (a periodic transfer of the divine symbol to a divine palace which is newly constructed every twenty years).

**Guard house**  
警衛

**Security office**  
警衛部

**Torii**, a symbolic structure of Shinto.  
When pilgrims walk towards a sanctuary, they pass under the torii.

▶ **Takimatsuri-no-kami** 瀧祭神  
A *kami* that protects the Isuzugawa River is enshrined here.

**How to worship kami**  
When you reach a *jinja* in Jingu, please worship the enshrined *kami* in the following manners:  
Bow twice deeply, clap your hands twice and bow once more deeply.

**Shikinen Sengu - 式年遷宮 -**  
Every twenty years, a new divine palace with the same dimensions as the current one is constructed at an alternate site which is adjacent to the main sanctuary. The sacred apparel, furnishings and divine treasures to be placed inside the sacred palace are also remade. Once they are prepared, the Holy Mirror (a symbol of Amaterasu-Omikami) is moved to the new sanctuary by the Jingu priests. This ritual is called Shikinen Sengu. It is carried out at Geku and other *jinja* of Jingu as well.

▶ **Temizusha (ablution font) 手水舎**  
Pilgrims make their ablutions at either *mitarashi* or *temizusha* by washing their hands and rinsing their mouth with pure water prior to approaching the main sanctuary.

**Mitarashi**  
(Site for ablution)  
御手洗場

**Etiquette inside the Jingu precinct**  
• Please do not take a picture at the area to worship.  
• Eating, drinking and smoking are not allowed within the precinct except in designated areas

**Geku**  
外宮

...Nursing room ...Pet checkroom